

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A data communications method comprising:
 - receiving a media data stream organized in accordance with a frame prediction data structure ~~which comprises~~ the media data stream comprising
 - compressed anchor frames; ~~and~~
 - a plurality of compressed bi-directionally predicted frames (B-frames) which are associated with the compressed anchor frames; ~~and the media data stream also including and~~
 - a table of contents (TOC) which points to the location in the media data stream where each frame in the stream begins;
 - initially decoding only the anchor frames and storing them;
 - initially displaying at least one visual image using an anchor frame;
 - receiving a request to change the displaying of the at least one visual image from a user input device which requires another frame to be displayed;
 - randomly accessing the other frame by looking up its location in the TOC;
 - responsive to the other frame being a B-frame, decoding the B-frame using one of the stored and decoded anchor frames which is associated with the B-frame, the decoding of the B-frame being out of sequence with respect to any B-frames that may be between one of the associated anchor frames and the B-frame; and
 - displaying another visual image using the randomly accessed frame.
2. (Cancelled).
3. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the media data stream further comprises for a plurality of multiple sequences of frames organized in the frame prediction data structure, the sequences being synchronized with one another and the TOC pointing to the location in the media data stream where each frame in the stream begins in accordance with a sequence number and a location of the frame within a sequence identified by the sequence number.

4. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 3 wherein the synchronized sequences include a base sequence in which the anchor frames are all Intra code frames (I-frames) and at least one other synchronized sequence in which the anchor frames include predicatively coded (P-frames); and wherein an I-frame in the base sequence predicts a P-frame in the at least one other synchronized sequence.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3 wherein the synchronized sequences include a base sequence in which the anchor frames include at least one P-frame and at least one other synchronized sequence in which the anchor frames include at least one P-frame; and wherein the P-frame in the base sequence predicts the at least one P-frame in the at least one other synchronized sequence.

6. (Cancelled).

7. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
providing configuration parameters regarding capabilities associated with a receiving device and usable to implement scaling of media data to be received; and
receiving media data scaled according to the configuration parameters and comprising a plurality of frames for generating a plurality of respective images

8. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 7 further comprising accessing the configuration parameters within a sending device; and scaling the compressed media data according to the configuration parameters to provide data streams of the compressed media data comprising different amounts of data for a given subject.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the frames individually comprise temporal, spatial, signal-to-noise ratio, and interactivity levels of scalability.

Claims 10.-14. (Cancelled).

15. (Currently Amended) A compressed media data decoder comprising:
an interface configured to access compressed media data comprising a plurality of frames usable to generate a plurality of respective images, wherein the compressed media

data is organized in accordance with a frame prediction data structure ~~which comprises the~~
media data stream comprising

compressed anchor frames; ~~and~~

a plurality of compressed bi-directionally predicted frames (B-frames) which
are associated with the compressed anchor frames; ~~and the media data stream also~~
~~including and~~

a table of contents (TOC) which points to the location in the media data stream
where each frame in the stream begins; and

processing circuitry coupled with the interface and configured to initially decode
only the anchor frames and store them in a memory, to control a display to depict at least
one image using an anchor frame, to access a data request for depiction of another one of
the images after the depiction of the at least one image, to randomly access another frame
by looking up its location in the TOC, and responsive to the other frame being a B-frame, to
decode the B-frame using one of the stored and decoded anchor frames associated with the
B-frame, the decoding of the B-frame being out of sequence with respect to any B-frames
that may be between one of the associated anchor frames and the B-frame.

16. (Previously Amended) The decoder of claim 15 wherein the data requests are
generated responsive to user interaction with the at least one image, and the processing
circuitry is configured to initially decode the anchor frames without user input.

17. (Original) The decoder of claim 15 wherein the compressed media data comprises data
for a sequence of a plurality of images comprising a linear order, and the processing
circuitry is configured to decode the compressed media data of the another frame out of
sequence and responsive to user input.

18. (Cancelled).

19. (Cancelled).

20. (Cancelled).

21. (Original) The decoder of claim 15 wherein the processing circuitry is further configured to provide configuration parameters corresponding to capabilities of a recipient communications device associated with the compressed media data decoder, and wherein the compressed media data comprises data scaled according to the configuration parameters.

22. (Original) The decoder of claim 21 wherein the processing circuitry is configured to decode the scaled data.

23. (Previously Amended) The decoder of claim 15 wherein the processing circuitry is configured to decode no more than a single one of the B-frames to depict the another one of the images.

24. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium having encoded there on processor executable instructions, which when executed by the processor cause the processor to perform a data communications method, the method comprising:

receiving a media data stream organized in accordance with a frame prediction data structure ~~which comprises the media data stream comprising~~

compressed anchor frames; ~~and~~

a plurality of compressed bi-directionally predicted frames (B-frames) which are associated with the compressed anchor frames; ~~and the media data stream also including and~~

a table of contents (TOC) which points to the location in the media data stream where each frame in the stream begins;

initially decoding only the anchor frames and storing them;

initially displaying at least one visual image using an anchor frame;

receiving a request to change the displaying of the at least one visual image from a user input device which requires another frame to be displayed;

randomly accessing the other frame by looking up its location in the TOC;

responsive to the other frame being a B-frame, decoding the B-frame using one of the stored and decoded anchor frames which is associated with the B-frame, the decoding of the B-frame being out of sequence with respect to any B-frames that may be between one of the associated anchor frames and the B-frame; and

displaying another visual image using the randomly accessed frame.

25. (Previously Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 24 wherein the media data stream further comprises a plurality of multiple sequences of frames organized in the frame prediction data structure, the sequences being synchronized with one another and the TOC pointing to the location in the media data stream where each frame in the stream begins in accordance with a sequence number and a location of the frame within a sequence identified by the sequence number.

26. (Previously Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 25 wherein the synchronized sequences include a base sequence in which the anchor frames are all Intra code frames (I-frames) and at least one other synchronized sequence in which the anchor frames include predicatively coded (P-frames); and wherein an I-frame in the base sequence predicts a P-frame in the at least one other synchronized sequence.

27. (Previously Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 25 wherein the synchronized sequences include a base sequence in which the anchor frames include at least one P-frame and at least one other synchronized sequence in which the anchor frames include at least one P-frame; and wherein the P-frame in the base sequence predicts the at least one P-frame in the at least one other synchronized sequence.

Claims 28.-37. (Cancelled).